

UPDATE

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NGOs and Government Officials Work Together in Assisting Flood Victims

Since August 2, 2006, NGOs, involved in the emergency work to mitigate the efforts of the flood disaster in Dire Dawa, and Food Security Coordination and Disaster Prevention Agency (FSCDPA) have been holding daily meetings to evaluate the daily emergency activities of Government, Non-Government Organizations, kebele officials and communities. NGOs and FSCDPA also undertook rapid assessment and assigned a Data Collecting Committee.

In a meeting conducted on August 11, 2006, the Mayor of the Provisional Administration of Dire Dawa City Council stressed the need that Government and Non-Government Organizations should focus on rehabilitation work rather than relief. NGOs on their part, strongly suggested the need for identifying the exact number of beneficiaries (flood victims) and identification cards for these beneficiaries.

As reported by the CRDA Regional Office in Dire Dawa, ten hectares of land and tents have been made ready as a temporary shelter for three months for flood victims. In the meantime, for permanent rehabilitation of the victims, 2000 houses would be constructed at an estimated cost of 90 million Birr. The targeted time for the construction of houses is three months.

In order to rehabilitate the flood victims within the targeted time period, the meeting formed a Coordinating Team that has prepared Terms of Reference for continuing efforts of the Government and Non-Government Organizations. The Team includes: City Cabinets of Dire Dawa, Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau of Dire Dawa, UN-Office for the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs and Harrargie Catholic Secretariat. The Coordinating Team will conduct a meeting once every week, oversee and coordinate on-going relief and rehabilitation activities as carried out by Government and Non-Government Organizations.

In addition, five Task Forces on Health, Nutrition and Sanitation; Food and Non-food Items; Infrastructure and Environment Protection; Protection for Women and Children; and Information and Communication, were formed. These Task Forces will also hold meetings every three days, and report to the Coordinating Team's weekly meeting.

In the meeting held on August 15, 2006, each Task Force prepared Terms of Reference and Plan of Action, and submitted these to the Provisional City Cabinet of Dire Dawa for approval.

Meanwhile, Government and Non-Government Organizations and individuals continue providing support for flood victims. Among them, Ethiopian Orthodox Church/ Development Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC/DICAC) donated 100, 000 Birr, and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church 200,000 Birr.

Currently, items urgently needed by the flood victims are Canvas (tent) for temporary shelter, cooking materials, kerosene stove and Kerosene, Mattress, and Plates.

In related development, on August 15, 2006, floods caused due to the overflow of Omo River, killed 364 people in Omo Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPRS).

According to the information from CRDA's Regional Liaison Office in Awassa, the floods burst-out from the Omo River flooded ten kebeles in Dasenech and Gngatom Woredas of South Omo Zone of the Region. The floods also swept 2,790 cattle and washed away 760 silos full of grains. (<http://www.ena.gov.et>)

In response, CRDA donated 100 quintals of food items (Faffa and Famix) worth Birr 80,000 on August 17, 2006, to people affected by the floods in Omo Zone.

In another development, 12,769 individuals have been displaced due to floods that hit three woredas of South Gondar Zone since August 7, 2006. Food Security Coordination and Disaster Prevention Agency has already sent a rescue mission to offer the necessary support for the flood victims. (<http://www.waltainfo.com/EnNews/2006/Aug/15Aug06/16764.htm>)

CRDA will continue releasing information on the Dire Dawa, SNNPRS and South Gonder emergency situation. If you wish to share your information, please contact the Information Management Department on telephone 011-4392395, or e-mail us at imd@crdaethiopia.org.

For further collaboration or need for information on the situations, please contact the CRDA Regional Liaison Officers in:

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